

Miss Ruth Harvey of the Lone Star neighborhood was shopping here Saturday.

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ROADS AND ROADS

Hundreds of miles from Liberal, in any direction you may go you will hear mentioned the road north from Liberal to the river. This piece of road has already cost Seward county thousands of dollars, yet everyone who travels it agrees that it is the worst piece of road in the county.

and it is one thing which gives Liberal and Seward county a black eye. Now, for the first time we have a condition which will enable us to put this road in good travel condition, and yet there are a lot of people who seem to be overlooking the matter, viewing it from the wrong angle.

A we hear the discussion there appears to be three elements which threaten the building of the road through the six and one-half miles of bad sand.

These three elements are politics, personal dislikes and ignorance of conditions. Do not understand us as claiming that anyone opposing is ignorant—we mean nothing of the kind. What we mean is that some persons are expressing dissatisfaction through misunderstanding.

We'll make this plain. There are a large number of people who are virtually up in arms over the matter

of the county employing an engineer, claiming it is useless expenditure of county money. If each of these will take the trouble to investigate they will soon convince themselves of the error of their contention. They will realize that the county commissioners meet but one day each month, yet the county commissioners are the only persons who have jurisdiction over road work if there is no engineer. Who will claim that the roads of the county can be properly kept up under such a condition? Then others say roads are no better since the engineer has been employed. To these we will say that roads are not built in a day or a year. Ford county has been working on her roads for many years and we found many roads in that county which were not any better than some right here. It takes time and work and money to make roads and we have not had an active engineer long enough for anyone to judge as to the benefit.

Another thing: Unless we have an engineer approved by the state we cannot get state and federal aid. Some say they do not want this aid. This is folly. Other counties and states are getting it and why should not Seward county have a share. We have money in a fund created by law which cannot be expended except upon permanent roads. It is our own money, but we must spend it as the law says and this fund has grown until it is large enough to match with state and federal aid and build a permanent road. There is a strong possibility that the next legislature will pass a law turning this into the state road fund unless we spend it. This was tried at the last session and may get by this time. Eastern Kansas wants the law because it can

take this money away from the Western counties and use it in the east. The safe plan is to spend it according to law and keep it at home.

It is just as Joe Fuest said in a speech before the Chamber of Commerce last week. We must lay aside any petty spite or personal differences and stand together to protect our own interests at this time. It makes no difference whether you desire a county engineer or not, the fact remains that Seward county must have an engineer to have roads; you can lay aside your dislikes and have roads or you can push it and go without roads. That is the only alternative now.

But just why such an agitation against a county engineer is not plain. Seward county has always had a county engineer, Meade county has one, Ford county has one, other counties have them. Perhaps the reason is that people did not know we had one. Joe Trindle was for years county engineer. Joe didn't get much out of it, but he did not devote a great deal of time to it the past few years. Abe Stouffer looked after the office end of the job. But the time has come when this is impossible. It is necessary to have a man on the job steady to keep the work up properly and see that there is no waste in grading, or dragging contracts. The work will be better done because there will be plans and estimates on all work and the price must be stipulated.

We would like to have the opponents of a county engineer study the proposition carefully, get all the facts then act accordingly. Get first hand information, free from prejudice and we'll trust them to decide wisely. No one is stronger for economy at this time than the Democrat but from our long experience in business we have found that efficient management is real economy, and for this reason we see the need of a man to have charge of the road work of the county.

Christmas Violets

By Mary Graham Bonner

(©, 1922, Western Newspaper Union.)

HAROLD had been told by his mother that big cities were full of designing women. Harold did not know whether his mother was right or not. But he did know that in his city boarding house there was one of the dearest little girls who had ever lived.

Harold was not selfish. He was far from being a miser. His idea of a miser was a chap he had known in his home town. He had never spent any money which he could possibly avoid spending. He always ate with his friends and rarely paid for a meal. He was always out of cigarettes and so smoked his friends' cigarettes.

He had made a good living and never failed to talk of his poverty.

He had been accused of worshipping money and he had replied: "Not a bit of it. I have great respect for money. That is the difference."

Harold despised that kind of a person. And yet, perhaps, wouldn't the "dearest little girl" think he was mean? He had never given her anything and he had lived at the boarding house for six months now. Did she think he was mean? That was what bothered him. She had told him of a person she had known whom she considered a miser, and she had told him of a joke upon this "miser." For he had bargained with a little shop dealer and had obtained an article marked a dollar for fifty cents, and then had walked down the street a little farther on and had seen the same article in another window for twenty-five cents. And finally he had seen it in a ten-cent store for a dime—well, he had almost considered life useless, while everyone else had rejoiced that it had been a good one on the "miser."

One of the reasons that made him feel that she thought, perhaps, he was mean was because she knew others who were generous. Or, at least, one other.

Every Saturday she had received flowers. She had taken a card out of the box as they had sat at the boarding house table at breakfast. The other boarders teased her about her admirer and she seemed to enjoy it. Only he felt uncomfortable and could say nothing.

And Helen, whom he called to himself the dearest little girl, had been receiving these flowers for quite a few weeks now.

Finally he could stand it no longer. His mother needn't tell him anything more about the city's designing women. He was not going to lose the dearest little girl, if there was yet a chance, because of his mother's warnings to keep to himself.

And, besides, Christmas was coming, and Christmas was a time of year when everyone felt happy. He was going to make a tremendous fight to be happy!

And he sent her violets, beautiful deep purple violets, with a pink rose in the center.

Never had he seen her so happy as she was over his violets. How differently she acted about him than about the others. And then he asked her if she would take a walk with him. So far, they had had all their talks in the boarding house.

"I wonder," he said, "if you'd think it was awfully sudden if I made a little suggestion? I was thinking how nice a ring would look on that left hand of yours—as a Christmas present—and an engagement present, if I may be so bold, and if you've not already promised yourself to the other fellow? Or, maybe you could learn to like me better."

"What other fellow?" Helen asked.

"The one who has been sending you flowers all along."

"Oh," Helen said, "I'll have to tell you the truth. I sent them to myself. You were so shy, you seemed to like me and yet couldn't go about telling me or asking me out, and I thought maybe I'd make you curious or jealous or something."

"And you've cared for me all along as I have for you?" he queried.

She nodded. And then he told her the warblings he had been given by his mother.

"I don't know out what's she's right," Helen said. "I made designs for you, she could truthfully say."

But neither of them thought of the past, only of the glorious future ahead.

And Helen wore more violets on Christmas day and a ring with a stone which sparkled so beautifully. And they had dinner by themselves—a real Christmas dinner, for it was not only Christmas day—it was their wedding day, too!



May we suggest to parents that among other things they give to each one of their children a pass book with a small deposit entered in it for a Christmas present.

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